

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

Spring 2004 Released Test

END OF COURSE

Writing

LARGE PRINT FORM

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DIRECTIONS

Read each passage. Then read each question after the passages. Choose the best answer.

SAMPLE A

A Special Person

In English class, Sarah has been asked to write a description of someone special to her. Sarah wants to write about her older brother.

Which of these would BEST help Sarah write her description of her older brother?

- A Calling his friends and telling them about him**
- B Thinking about all the things she likes about him**
- C Making a list of things she wants him to do for her**
- D Asking him to take her to the library**

SAMPLE B

Here is the first part of Sarah’s rough draft.

DRAFT A

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother, his name is Ben. (2)He has always been there to help me out and has been there for me when I needed him.

How is sentence 1 BEST rewritten?

F A special person in my life is Ben, my big brother.

G A special person in my life is Ben, he is my big brother.

H In my life a special person is my big brother, his name is Ben.

J My big brother Ben, he is a special person in my life.

SAMPLE C

Sarah has written a second draft of the first part of her essay.

DRAFT B

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother, his name is Ben. (2)He has always been supportive of me.

How has Sarah improved the second sentence in this draft?

- A She has created a fragment.**
- B She has changed the meaning entirely.**
- C She has expressed the idea more concisely.**
- D She has shifted the point of view.**

SAMPLE D

Here is the next part of Sarah’s rough draft.

**(3)The best thing about my brother is that he help me
with my homework. (4)He’s a really good student.**

In sentence 3, he help is correctly written

F he were helping

G he helps

H he have helped

J as it is

Bombay's Hollywood

Alicia's history teacher has asked his students to write a paper on an industry in another country. Alicia wants to write about the film industry in India.

- 1 Alicia wants to find a book on her topic. Which of these books would BEST help her?**

- A *Traditions of an Ancient Culture: The History of India***
- B *The Impact of Geography on the Society of Modern India***
- C *From the Ganges to the Godavari: The Rivers of India***
- D *Entertainment in Contemporary India***

Here is the first part of Alicia’s paper. Use it to answer questions 2–5.

(1)People who live in India enjoy going to the movies as much as people who live in the United States. (2)In fact, the film industry in Bombay, often referred to as “Bollywood,” is the largest in the world. (3)The industry produces about nine hundred films a year. (4)Many of these films have budgets of over two million dollars.

(5)Like movies in the United States, Indian films highlight heroes, villains, romance, and action. (6)Similarly, Indian fans go to the theaters to hear music as well as to watch the action. (7)I have always felt that lighting is also an important feature of a good movie. (8)Most Bollywood films include complex background music, elaborate dances, and songs that the actors lip-synch. (9)The music is an important feature for all the fans who visit the theater every weekend.

(10)The music in Indian films uses traditional Indian instruments, such as sitars. (11)It combines these sounds with more contemporary sounds. (12)The dancers in the films often wear vividly colored costumes that reflect both traditional and modern styles.

(13)The extravagant dance sequences frequently feature over a hundred dancers in unusual settings. (14)For example, movie viewers might see people dancing in a city square, on a beautiful beach, or in a remote desert.

2 Which of these does NOT belong in Alicia’s paper?

F 4

G 7

H 12

J 14

3 In sentence 6, Similarly, does NOT correctly link the ideas. Which of these should be used instead?

- A In other words,**
- B Consequently,**
- C Unfortunately,**
- D However,**

4 How can Alicia BEST combine sentences 10 and 11 without changing their meaning?

- F The music in Indian films combines traditional Indian instruments, such as sitars, with more contemporary sounds.**
- G The music in Indian films uses traditional Indian instruments, such as sitars, the music combines these with more contemporary sounds.**
- H Combined with more contemporary sounds, the music in Indian films uses sitars, such as traditional Indian instruments.**
- J The music combines in Indian films traditional Indian instruments, such as sitars, and combining contemporary sounds.**

5 Which of these supporting ideas would be appropriate to add to paragraph 1?

- A The men’s dance costumes are often as colorful as the women’s.**
- B Because of its size, the film industry provides jobs for Indians in many fields of work.**
- C Folk music from small villages is often highlighted during the dances.**
- D The composers of music for popular films are often as popular as the singers.**

Read this next section of Alicia’s rough draft and answer questions 6–9. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(15)Some Indians pay one to three dollars, which is a full day’s wage, to see a popular film. (16)The music from these films is sold on tapes and CDs. (17)With this kind of support, it is not surprising that the actors and singers associated with the films often achieve instant popularity.

(18)Bollywood films are distributed in Europe, south Africa, the Middle East, and the United States. (19)In addition, many home video companies distribute the films to their video stores. (20)The movies are often accompanied by critical reviews to help people who work in the stores make recommendations to customers. (21)As a result, people around the world are beginning to discover Indian films, music, and celebrities.

6 In sentence 15, day's wage is correctly written

F days' wage

G days's wage

H days wage

J as it is

7 In sentence 18, south Africa, the Middle East, and the United States is correctly written

A south africa, the middle east, and the United States

B south Africa, the Middle east, and the United States

C South Africa, the Middle East, and the United States

D as it is

8 In sentence 20, accompanied by critical reviews is correctly written

F accompanied by critical reviews

G accompanied by critical reveiws

H accommpanied by critical reveiws

J as it is

9 In sentence 21, films, music, and celebrities is correctly written

A films, music, and, celebrities

B films music, and celebritys

C films music and celebritys

D as it is

Stay in School

Since Josephine and Susan are troubled by the number of students who are dropping out of school, they have decided to write letters to the members of the state legislature. They both want to suggest that the legislature enact a law requiring students to stay in school in order to keep their driver's licenses.

10 Before Josephine begins writing her letter, she wants to make an outline of her ideas. An outline will help her to

F use convincing vocabulary in her letter

G locate relevant quotes from resources to include in her letter

H decide which information will make her argument most convincing

J think of additional topics to bring to the state legislature's attention

Draft A below is Josephine’s first draft of the first part of her letter. Draft B is Susan’s draft. Use both rough drafts to answer questions 11–14.

Draft A: Josephine’s draft

To the Members of the State Legislature:

I have heard that the drop-out rate in our schools is very high. It might even be as high as 25 percent. That number is not acceptable. Because students who receive a high school diploma have a much better chance in life, a change is needed.

Students who quit attending school often do so because they are unsuccessful in the classroom. Most of these students, however, would attain a higher degree of academic success if only they would attend class regularly. If my idea were adopted, these students would become more motivated to stay in school. Then, as a result of regular school attendance, they would have better classroom experiences.

I think there should be a policy that causes students who are absent excessively to lose their drivers' licenses. Most teens cherish the freedom that a driver's license represents. This sort of policy is one solution to this problem. It would prevent many students from cutting classes. Students value their drivers' licenses.

Draft B: Susan's draft

To the Members of the State Legislature:

Recently I learned that 23 percent of the students who enter my high school as freshmen do not make it to their senior year. Because this number caught my attention, I decided to check on the overall drop-out rate for our school system. Unfortunately, this number is even worse—26.3 percent. Lowering this disturbing rate should be top priority for our lawmakers.

Many students have problems succeeding. They quit attending school. Most of these students could be more successful. This could happen if they went to class regularly. My plan will help these students stay in school. This will help create better classroom experiences.

I would like to suggest one possible solution to this problem. I think a new policy should be established mandating that students who have more than ten unexcused absences will lose their drivers' licenses. This policy is one solution to this problem, which would cause students to think twice about cutting classes. After all, having a driver's license is a highly valued privilege to most teens.

11 Paragraph 1 of which draft provides more relevant, specific information?

- A Draft A, because it describes how a student can have a good chance in life
- B Draft B, because it tells the percentage of students who drop out
- C Draft A, because it states that a 25 percent drop-out rate is not acceptable
- D Draft B, because it ends with a strong statement

12 In both drafts, paragraph 3 focuses mainly on

- F familiarizing the reader with the problem**
- G suggesting a solution to the problem**
- H creating a comparison relationship**
- J voicing a complaint about the school system**

13 Which of these sentences in paragraph 1 of Draft B establishes the main focus of Susan’s letter?

- A Recently I learned that 23 percent of the students who enter my high school as freshmen do not make it to their senior year.**
- B Because this number caught my attention, I decided to check on the overall drop-out rate for our school system.**
- C Unfortunately, this number is even worse—26.3 percent.**
- D Lowering this disturbing rate should be top priority for our lawmakers.**

14 What is the BEST way to rewrite this sentence in Draft B:
This policy is one solution to this problem, which would
cause students to think twice about cutting classes.?

- F This policy, which would cause students to think twice about cutting classes, is one solution to this problem.**
- G Causing students to think twice about cutting classes, this policy is one solution to this problem.**
- H This policy is one solution, which would cause students to think twice about cutting classes, to this problem.**
- J One solution to this problem is causing students to think twice about cutting classes, which this policy does.**

Read this next section of Susan’s rough draft and answer questions 15–19. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

The program would require coordination by several governmental agencies. School administrators in each school district would need to turn in their attendance rolls to the department of Public Safety. In addition, a system of locating students who have more than ten unexcused absences would need to be developed.

However, I feel that these efforts would be worth it. Students, who graduate from high school, enter the work force with marketable skills. They are able to help support themselves and their families, and they are better able to contribute creativity and intelligence to their communities. Our society is changing too quickly to loose the productivity of one-fourth of its' citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Medford

Susan Medford

15 How is department of Public Safety correctly written?

- A Department of public safety
- B Department of Public Safety
- C department of public safety
- D As it is

16 How is Students, who graduate from high school, enter correctly written?

F Students who graduate from high school, enter

G Students, who graduate from high school enter

H Students who graduate from high school enter

J As it is

17 How is themselves and their families, correctly written?

A theirselves and their families,

B themselves and their families

C theirselves and their families

D As it is

18 How is too quickly to loose correctly written?

- F** too quick to loose
- G** too quickly to lose
- H** too quick to lose
- J** As it is

19 How is one-fourth of its' citizens correctly written?

- A** one-fourth of its citizens
- B** one-forth of it's citizens
- C** one-forth of its' citizens
- D** As it is

Save Our Parks!

Aaron read an article describing the problems of America's national parks. According to the article, the quality of the parks is declining because of the large numbers of visitors and a lack of money.

Aaron has decided to write to his congressperson to share his concerns.

20 Which of these strategies would be the MOST helpful to Aaron before he begins writing his letter?

- F Making a list of camping gear you would need when visiting a park**
- G Reading his local newspaper to find other problems that concern him**
- H Researching the process for being elected to Congress**
- J Focusing on what he could say that would be the most important and persuasive**

Here are two rough drafts of the first part of Aaron’s letter. Use them to answer questions 21–24. Note: Draft B has an underlined sentence.

DRAFT A

Dear Congressman Schuyler:

1 I am worried about our national parks; you will be too, after you read my letter. Recently I read a very upsetting article that said the quality of our national parks is getting worse because too many people visit each year. I live just an hour away from Shenandoah National Park. I can’t tell you how much it means to me to go there with my family. Every time I go, I see something wonderful. Last time it was an eagle soaring above the snow-covered mountains until it was just a speck in the deep blue sky. The worst thing I can imagine is to have the quality of Shenandoah go downhill.

2 I’m glad that so many people are enjoying our nation’s wild places, but the large numbers can mean problems. Park Ranger Manuel Ortega points out that visitors aren’t always responsible. They may litter or

take things out of the park. Even if they're careful and don't mean to cause damage, it's not good for some plants and animals that live in the park to be around humans too much. Amusement parks also suffer from high attendance, making it difficult for all visitors to have a good time. Even worse, national parks don't have enough money to operate as they should. We can't continue to ignore these problems. We must join together and take action now!

DRAFT B

Dear Congressman Schuyler:

1 I am very concerned about the state of our national parks. Recently I read an article in my local newspaper titled “Crisis in Our National Parks” in which several park rangers stated that they felt the quality of our national parks is declining. I talked to Manuel Ortega, a park ranger at Shenandoah National Park, and he agrees that the parks are in trouble. The main reason, Ortega said, is that the parks do not have enough money to meet the demands of a constantly increasing number of visitors.

2 The number of people who use the parks gets larger every year, causing one reporter to remark that we are “loving our parks to death.” These crowds cause enormous wear and tear on the parks’ resources. The more people who visit a park, the more opportunities there are for accidental damage to that park’s plants and animals.

The situation is made worse by the fact that the parks are operating on a low budget and don't have much money. They can't fix the problems caused by too many people, let alone make improvements.

- 21 Which paragraph contains information that is off the topic?
- A Paragraph 1 of Draft A on page 28, because it mentions Shenandoah National Park.
 - B Paragraph 2 of Draft A on page 28 and 29, because it mentions amusement parks.
 - C Paragraph 1 of Draft B on page 30, because it mentions a park ranger by name.
 - D Paragraph 2 of Draft B on page 30, because it contains a quote.

22 The last sentence of Draft A on page 29 is more effective than the last sentence of Draft B on page 31 because it

F shifts the point of view for emphasis

G uses more descriptive language

H makes a direct, persuasive appeal to the reader

J provides more specific detail

23 Which of these sentences found in either Draft A or Draft B contains the MOST descriptive vocabulary?

- A Last time it was an eagle soaring above the snow-covered mountains until it was just a speck in the deep blue sky.**
- B The worst thing I can imagine is to have the quality of Shenandoah go downhill.**
- C Recently I read an article in my local newspaper titled “Crisis in Our National Parks” in which several park rangers stated that they felt the quality of our national parks is declining.**
- D The more people who visit a park, the more opportunities there are for accidental damage to that park’s plants and animals.**

24 Which of these is a problem with the following sentence from paragraph 2 of Draft B on page 31?

The situation is made worse by the fact that the parks are operating on a low budget and don't have much money.

- F It contains highly technical language.**
- G It should be moved to the beginning of the paragraph.**
- H It expresses Aaron's personal opinion about the parks.**
- J The phrase "don't have much money" repeats information already given in the sentence.**

Read this next part of Aaron’s rough draft and answer questions 25–29. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

The solution set forth by National Park Service officials is to limit the amount of visitors allowed into the parks. But how can we turn people away from their own parks? A better plan is to allow the parks to raise the entry fees. Although fees have recently gone up, they are still quite low, and polls show that most people are willing to pay more. The money would allow parks to repair damage and improve campsites and trails. It also could pay for programs to teach people how to enjoy the outdoors while preserving its beauty for future visitors.

Congressman Schuyler, won’t you please make our national parks one of your prioritys this year? I want to be sure that my father and me can go on hiking in Shenandoah for a long time to come. As cities grow bigger and noisier and swallow up more and more precious green space, we must take steps

to keep our parks peaceful beautiful, and open to everyone. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Goldman

Aaron Goldman

25 How is the amount of visitors allowed correctly written?

- A the number of visitors allowed
- B the amount of visitors aloud
- C the number of visitors allow
- D As it is

26 How is Although fees have recently gone up, they are correctly written?

F Although, fees have recently gone up, they are

G Although, fees have, recently, gone up, they are

H Although fees have, recently, gone up they are

J As it is

27 How is your prioritys this year? correctly written?

A your prioritys this year.

B your priorities this year?

C you're prioritys this year?

D As it is

28 How is my father and me can go correctly written?

- F** me and my father can go
- G** my Father and I can go
- H** my father and I can go
- J** As it is

29 How is peaceful beautiful, and open to everyone correctly written?

- A** peaceful, beautiful, and open to everyone
- B** peaceful beautiful and open, to everyone
- C** peaceful, beautiful and open, to everyone
- D** As it is

Wilma Mankiller

Caleb’s English teacher has asked the students to write a paper about someone they admire. Caleb wants to write about Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Caleb made this preliminary outline. Use it to answer questions 30 and 31.

I. Mankiller’s early life

A. Born in Oklahoma in 1945

B. Part of a large Cherokee family

C. Moved to San Francisco at age 10

II. Mankiller's activism

- A. Returned to Oklahoma to work for the Cherokee Nation**
- B. Was the mother of two daughters**
- C. Lobbied for government grants to improve conditions for poor villages**
- D. Became deputy chief and then chief of the Cherokee Nation**

III. Accomplishments as chief

- A. Supported Cherokee businesses**
- B. Founded the Institute for Cherokee Literacy**
- C. Created the Cherokee Heritage Center**

30 Which of these could Caleb BEST add to I. Mankiller's early life?

**F Worked to change people's mistaken ideas about
Cherokees**

G Spent her childhood on a farm

H Improved the lives of thousands of Cherokees

J Served as chief for 10 years

31 Which of these does NOT belong with the rest of Caleb's ideas?

A I. A.

B III. C.

C II. D.

D II. B.

Here are two drafts of Caleb’s paper. Use both rough drafts to answer questions 32–35.

DRAFT A

When Wilma Mankiller was born into her large Cherokee family on an Oklahoma farm in 1945, there was nothing to indicate she would grow up to become the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. She spent her early years in a simple wooden house her father had built, sharing in the hard work of farming and harvesting food from the woods. When she was 10, her family moved to San Francisco, California. This move was a big adjustment for Mankiller, but she adapted to city life. Later, she attended San Francisco State University.

In 1976, Mankiller left California to return to Oklahoma and went to work for the Cherokee Nation. Her job involved promoting Cherokee businesses and education. While doing her job, Mankiller visited many rural villages. She was dismayed by the primitive conditions of many of the homes she saw. She wanted to help.

DRAFT B

Wilma Mankiller was born in 1945. She was born into a large Cherokee family. Her family lived in Oklahoma. They lived on a farm, so Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built. When she was 10, her family moved to San Francisco, California. Mankiller left farm life behind, since after moving to a big city like San Francisco her family no longer had to farm and harvest food from the woods. City life was a big adjustment for Mankiller, but she slowly adapted to things she had never seen before. Her adapting to city life made it possible for her to attend San Francisco State University later on.

Mankiller's parents had always given her a strong sense of pride in her Cherokee heritage. In 1976, Mankiller decided to return to Oklahoma, where many Cherokees still lived. She went to work for the Cherokee Nation, promoting Cherokee businesses and encouraging Cherokee Indians to attend college and then help their villages. While performing her job, Mankiller was dismayed to learn that many Cherokee homes still lacked electricity and running water.

32 Which sentence repeats information already found in the sentence?

- F She spent her early years in a simple wooden house her father had built, sharing in the hard work of farming and harvesting food from the woods.**
- G This move was a big adjustment for Mankiller, but she adapted to city life and got used to it.**
- H In 1976, Mankiller decided to return to Oklahoma, where many Cherokees still lived.**
- J While performing her job, Mankiller was dismayed to learn that many Cherokee homes still lacked electricity and running water.**

33 In paragraph 1 of Draft B, how can Caleb BEST combine the sentences Her family lived in Oklahoma. They lived on a farm, so Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built. without changing their meaning?

- A** Her family lived in Oklahoma and they lived on a farm, so Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built.
- B** Her family lived in Oklahoma, so living on a farm, Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built.
- C** Her family lived in Oklahoma, they lived on a farm, Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built.
- D** Her family lived on a farm in Oklahoma; Mankiller grew up in a simple wooden farmhouse her father had built.

34 What is the main difference between paragraph 2 of Draft A and paragraph 2 of Draft B?

F Draft A has better sentence variety.

G The tone of Draft A is persuasive.

H Draft B contains more specific information.

J Draft B includes information that is off the topic.

35 Which sentence could BEST be added to the end of paragraph 2 in both drafts?

- A The primitive conditions often consisted of a lack of electricity and running water.**
- B She successfully lobbied for government grants to improve conditions in rural villages.**
- C Mankiller loved listening to Cherokee stories that had been handed down for generations.**
- D In 1998, Wilma Mankiller was awarded the Medal of Freedom for her many accomplishments.**

Read this next section of Caleb’s rough draft and use it to answer questions 36–40. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

In 1983, Mankiller was elected deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation. She served under its chief, Ross Swimmer, much as a vice president serves under a president. As the leaders of the Cherokee Nation, Swimmer and Mankiller was responsible for all official business and special programs.

Two years later, the President of the United States asked Chief Swimmer to run the Bureau of Indian affairs in Washington, D.C. When Chief Swimmer agreed, Wilma Mankiller became the Cherokee Nation’s first woman chief, a position she held for ten years. Mankiller filled the role of chief with great effectiveness. She continued to work for social and economic opportunities for her people. She also take steps to prevent the Cherokee language and culture from slipping away by establishing the

Institute for Cherokee Literacy and the Cherokee Heritage Center. Mankiller’s hard work and dedication had paid off, improving thousands of Cherokees’ lives.

36 How is its chief, Ross Swimmer, correctly written?

- F its chief, Ross Swimmer**
- G its chief Ross Swimmer,**
- H its chief Ross Swimmer**
- J As it is**

37 How is Swimmer and Mankiller was responsible correctly written?

- A Swimmer and Mankiller were responsible**
- B Swimmer and Mankiller is responsible**
- C Swimmer and Mankiller was responsable**
- D As it is**

38 How is Bureau of Indian affairs correctly written?

- F bureau of Indian affairs**
- G Bureau Of Indian Affairs**
- H Bureau of Indian Affairs**
- J As it is**

39 How is economic opportunities correctly written?

- A ecanomic opportunities**
- B ecinomic opportunities**
- C econonomic opportunities**
- D As it is**

40 How is She also take steps correctly written?

- F She also takes steps**
- G She also took steps**
- H She also will take steps**
- J As it is**

Test Sequence Number	Correct Answer
1	D
2	G
3	D
4	F
5	B
6	J
7	C
8	F
9	D
10	H
11	B
12	G
13	D
14	F
15	B
16	H
17	D
18	G
19	A
20	J
21	B
22	H
23	A
24	J
25	A
26	J
27	B
28	H
29	A
30	G
31	D
32	G
33	D
34	H
35	B
36	J
37	A
38	H
39	D
40	G